

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 8
Joint State Hearing/Columbia River Compact
July 14, 2006

Purpose:	Update Columbia River Sport Salmon Fishery Consider additional commercial fishing periods
-----------------	--

Management guidelines, stock status and past fisheries are described in Summer Fact Sheet #1, dated June 15, 2006.

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam counts from June 16-July 12 total 56,298 Chinook. Passage is typically 77% complete by this date.
- Priest Rapids Dam counts through July 7 total 33,193 fish. Passage is about 50% complete by the July 7th date.
- In-season run size projections include 87,000 summer Chinook and 40,000 sockeye at the river mouth.
- Based on the current run size projection, 24,375 fish are allocated to non-Treaty fisheries through the *US v Oregon* management plan. The draft upper Columbia management plan allocates about 9,600 fish to fisheries occurring below Priest Rapids Dam. Commission guidance directs management to further allocate the remaining fish 50/50 between sport fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam (4,800 fish) and commercial fisheries (4,800 fish).

Summer Chinook Sport Fishery update

- Summer Chinook sport fisheries are non-selective and are scheduled from the Tongue Pt./Rocky Pt. line upstream to Priest Rapids Dam during June 16-July 31, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam during July 1 through October 15.
- Catch rates were high throughout June (0.17 Chinook/angler) but began decreasing in July with a monthly average through July 9 of 0.09 kept Chinook/angler.
- The estimated catch through Sunday, July 9 below Bonneville Dam is 4,346 Chinook kept (3,360 in June and 986 during July 1-9). Expected catch for the remainder of July is about 500 Chinook for a season expectation of about 4,900 fish.
- Catch and effort above Bonneville Dam has remained minimal, with a projected total catch of less than 200 Chinook for the season, based on the average catch from previous years.

Non-treaty Commercial Summer Chinook Fishery

- A total of six, 10-12 hour commercial fishing periods have occurred from June 26-July 13 with four additional 12-hour fishing periods scheduled to occur from July 17-27. Preliminary landings through July 11 include 2,927 Chinook and 310 white sturgeon.
- Catch projections for the remaining fishing periods in place are 600 Chinook. As Chinook become less abundant in the river, the commercial fishery becomes less efficient.
- Based on fishing periods during the summer of 2005, the fishery is significantly less efficient after mid-July.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The joint staff is recommending one fishing period per week be adopted in addition to those fishing periods in place. These additional fishing periods would take place on Thursdays between 7PM and 7AM through July 28, 2006 and include all the previously adopted regulations.

The remainder of the summer season would then be:

<i>Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	7 PM Monday July 17 to 7 AM Tuesday July 18 (12 hours) 7 PM Wednesday July 19 to 7 AM Thursday July 20 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday July 20 to 7 AM Friday July 21 (12 hours) 7 PM Monday July 24 to 7 AM Tuesday July 25 (12 hours) 7 PM Wednesday July 26 to 7 AM Thursday July 27 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday July 27 to 7 AM Friday July 28 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomín-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, shad, and white sturgeon. All sockeye and steelhead must be released immediately. A maximum of three white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Green sturgeon may not be retained.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- Season total catch projection is less than 4,000 fish, considering the 2,900 landed, plus an estimated 600 fish from periods already in place and an additional 300 fish for the proposed periods.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing for consideration of commercial fall fisheries has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 27, 2006 located at the River Street Building, 25 River Street in Cathlamet, Washington.